



State of Arizona  
**Department of Education**

**Jaime A. Molera**

Superintendent of  
Public Instruction

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TO: Administrators of Child Nutrition Programs

FROM: Lynne Dulin, Director  
Child Nutrition Programs

SUBJECT: Food Recovery and Gleaning

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has supported food recovery and gleaning efforts to reduce food waste and provide usable food to support a variety of charitable organizations. This includes recovery of foods leftover in the school meals programs. While we encourage proper planning, food production, and the maximum use of purchased foods in our programs, sometimes events overtake our best plans and we are left with excess food. These are ideal times to share wholesome foods with organizations that can give them out to needy individuals.

Attached is a copy of an article, which briefly addresses the issues involved in food donation and provides appropriate discussion of the concerns making such donations. In addition, it directs those interested to one of the organizations, Rock and Wrap It Up!, which has been working with schools for several years now to promote food recovery and gleaning. Rock and Wrap It Up! received a grant from the USDA to develop some of its materials and got started in schools as part of a pilot project to encourage food recovery. Rock and Wrap It Up! provides letters of reference and approval for university, military and work applications to a student volunteer who starts Rock and Wrap It Up! food recovery programs in their school and community. Certificates of appreciation autographed by current rock and wrestling stars are also given out.

This article is available for reprint in your newsletters or other publications to school districts. We are attaching a copy for your use. We strongly encourage you to share this article and to work with local school districts to promote ideas, no matter how large or small, to limit food waste and to work with other charitable organizations to wipe out hunger in our communities. For additional information pertaining to gleaning and food recovery, refer to <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/gleaning/gleancover.htm>.

Thank you for your continued work to serve all those in need of food assistance.